

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9037

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR ON ME

1. SUMMARY. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR STRONGLY ENDORSED A RENEWAL OF THE SECRETARY'S MEDIATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND WAS QUITE NEGATIVE ABOUT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. HE THOUGHT THE SOVIETS ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT WHAT MOVES TO TAKE NEXT IN THE ME AND HE CALLED THE EGYPTIAN IDEA OF FRENCH, UK AND NON-ALIGNED PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA "NOT SERIOUS." THE AMBASSADOR THOUGHT THE IRAQ-IRAN AGREEMENT WOULD RESULT IN LESSENED IRAQI DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR. THE AMBASSADOR'S FORCEFUL

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SUPPORT FOR RENEWAL OF THE SECRETARY'S ME MISSION AND

HIS STRONGLY DEPRECATORY VIEWS ABOUT THE SOVIETS' MIDDLE EAST POSTURE ARE STRIKING. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ALGIERS' COMMENT ON WHETHER AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ARE CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT ALGERIAN THINKING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HERE APRIL 4, HE ASKED ME WHETHER THE SECRETARY WOULD BE RENEWING HIS "SHUTTLE DIPLOMACY." HE WENT ON TO SAY HE THOUGHT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PROCEED AND THAT "THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO IT." THE ISRAELIS WANT IT, HE SAID, AND HE THOUGHT SADAT DID AS WELL.

3. THE AMBASSADOR WAS VERY SKEPTICAL ABOUT GENEVA. HE SAID THE MAIN PROBLEM IN ACHIEVING PROGRESS ON THE MEE IS AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT. IF AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED BETWEEN THEM, HE SAID, THE REST OF THE QUESTIONS WILL FALL INTO PLACE. AGAIN ENDORSING THE SECRETARY'S APPROACH, HE SAID THAT ONLY A MISSION BY THE SECRETARY CAN WORK OUT AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT. GOING TO GENEVA, HOWEVER, WILL NOT HELP AT ALL. GENEVA, HE SAID, WILL BE A SHOUTING MATCH, A PLACE FOR PUBLIC POSTURING. AS FOR THE SOVIETS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, THEY SAY THEY WANT TO "PREPARE" FOR THE MEPC, BUT WHAT IS THERE TO "PREPARE"? HE SAID HE HAS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SOVIETS ARE VERY UNCERTAIN ABOUT NEXT MOVES AND THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO. THE AMBASSADOR SCOFFED AT THE INVITATIONS TO FRANCE, THE UK AND NON-ALIGNED TO ATTEND THE MEPC, SAYING HE THOUGHT THIS WAS "NOT SERIOUS."

4. THE ALGERIAN SAID HE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN THE IRAN/IRAQ AGREEMENT. HE THOUGHT THAT ONE RESULT OF IT WOULD BE THAT IRAQ WOULD SEEK TO LESSEN ITS DEPENDENCE ON THE USSR AND WOULD PROMOTE BETTER RELATIONS WITH MODERATE ARAB STATES.
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